

Nouvelle société helvétique

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“ The organisation of a manifestation of the size in view ”, he said, “ calls for a concentration of all efforts. The help which the working committee of the Council can lend in this direction is of the utmost importance if the technical organisation is to become adequate.”

Dr. Brunner's capable *exposé* was greatly appreciated, and the Chairman extended thanks to him for his laudable efforts.

Mr. Wiesendanger then called upon Mr. Renou, Chairman of the Executive Committee in London, who gave an extensive résumé of the work done by the small working committee of the Swiss Economic Council. He paid a generous tribute to Mr. Staehelin and Dr. Brunner of OSEC for their spade-work and collaboration, and to his colleagues of the working committee, Messrs. R. J. Keller, W. Wyler, M. Wiesendanger, O. Rohn and G. Ronus, saying that whatever had been achieved so far was done in complete agreement and harmony and with enthusiasm by all.

Mr. Renou also expressed thanks to the Swiss Ambassador, Dr. Armin Daeniker, and his collaborators at the Embassy, Dr. R. Faessler and Dr. E. M. Bircher.

The speaker referred at some length to the efforts which are being made to co-ordinate the “Fête Suisse” with the demonstration organised by the Pestalozzi Village Association in London for a Folklore Evening at the Royal Albert Hall.

Mr. Renou closed his most interesting address with the words: “ Any effort we make, we love to make! ” (*Applause*).

Mr. O. Rohn, in charge of Publicity and the Hortological Section, gave a most interesting report about the endeavours which have been made in this direction. His address and suggestions were listened to with the keenest interest and warmly acknowledged.

The Chairman then opened the discussion in which various members of the Council took part.

This interesting and useful Meeting came to a close at 10.30 p.m. *ST.*

NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE. Annual General Meeting.

Come to work to have pleasure! This seems to have been the motto for the members of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, whose Annual General Meeting took place on Tuesday, 10th March, at the “Schweizerbund”, 74 Charlotte Street, W.1. The meeting was followed by a dinner which was evidently enjoyed by all, both in its physical (food and wine) aspect and its social amiability.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. W. Renz, who could welcome a fairly large gathering, amongst them some official guests. The Annual Report of the Council registered the fact of the continuing useful activity of the society. There were eight meetings during the year, with a variety of themes — lectures, film shows, colour slides of foreign countries.

The Annual Report of the Council and the Treasurer's Report were accepted with due thanks to those concerned. As a variation of an old theme the Hon. Treasurer could tell us that we had indeed “ an excess of income over expenditure ” carried to Balance.

All the previous members of the Council were re-elected with the addition of Messrs. H. Mock and J. H. Büchi.

Mr. A. F. Suter, Honorary President of the Society, who had conducted from the Chair the election part of the meeting, proffered warm thanks to the outgoing Committee and Council Members. He also mentioned the forthcoming *Journée Suisse* and expressed the hope that some members could arrange their holidays in Switzerland so as to be able to take part in that, for “Ausland-Schweizer”, so important annual conference.

What we lost at the N.S.H. Annual Film Show some time ago, we were privileged to enjoy after the dinner debris had been cleared away and the tables pushed back. *Scntes et Rocs au Saleve*, a lovely colour film, showed us Raymond Lambert and partner climbing the most forbidding mountain walls. The film not only brought out clearly the wonderful technique of the climbers — some shots were almost frightening to watch — but also their coolness and stamina. This was indeed a most excellent “dessert”.

Finally we were asked to note in our calendars 21st April as the day for the next meeting. Details will follow in due course. *J.H.B.*

AN APPEAL.

Dear Compatriots,

Mindful of the great losses sustained by thousands of Swiss abroad during the two world wars, the Assembly of Swiss Abroad in 1958 at Baden founded the “Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad”, a co-operative society. The purpose of this society is to provide immediate financial assistance to persons deprived of their means of livelihood as a result of war, internal unrest or social or economic emergency regulations. As the name implies, the idea behind the scheme is mutual assistance and solidarity among Swiss living in all parts of the globe.

The fund will be built up gradually through annual contributions from the Swiss abroad. These contributions are not lost, they are returnable to the depositor without interest on his reaching the age of 65, or, earlier death intervening, to his heirs. Persons losing their means of livelihood will receive compensation equal to 100 times their annual contribution. Further particulars regarding this “Solidarity Fund for Swiss Abroad” are given in the attached leaflet, and a copy of the Statutes can be obtained from the Embassy.

The Statutes provide that the Confederation should make good any deficit in the event of the financial resources of the society proving insufficient to compensate its members for losses sustained. The Federal Council is prepared to give favourable consideration to an application of this kind from the society and will submit it in due course to the Federal Assembly, provided that a sufficiently large number of Swiss abroad demonstrate their solidarity by subscribing to this fund.

I appeal therefore to all compatriots (including dual-nationals) resident in the United Kingdom to set an example by joining this world-wide scheme of self help.

By lending your support you are not only helping yourselves by covering the risks outlined above, but, at the same time, you are demonstrating your solidarity as Swiss abroad.

THE SWISS AMBASSADOR :
A. DAENIKER.